

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 13, cancel.

Add new claims as follows:

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17. (New) A shaped knit, the knit comprising:
a first portion having loops; and
a second portion having widening or narrowing loops at a plurality of deformation regions, the deformation regions being distributed over the second portion of the knit with a substantially uniform density.

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18\ (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 17, wherein each deformation region has a width no greater than ten loops.

Λ 19. (New) A shaped knit according to claim 17, wherein each deformation region includes a widening loop or a narrowing loop.

∩ 20. (New) A shaped knit according to claim 17, wherein each deformation region includes a split loop or a recombined loop.

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21. (New) A shaped knit according to claim 17, wherein said second portion includes widening loops in first and second wales splitting the first and second wales into, respectively, a first pair of wales and a second pair of wales, wherein said second portion also includes narrowing loops which recombine the first pair of wales and the second pair of wales respectively, and wherein said second portion includes a fully knitted wale between the first pair of wales and the second pair of wales.

22. (New) A shaped knit, the knit produced by the steps of:

- a. knitting loops of a first portion; and
- b. knitting widening or narrowing loops at a plurality of deformation regions distributed over a second portion, the

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deformation regions being distributed over the second portion of the knit with a substantially uniform density.

23. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 22, wherein each deformation region has a width no greater than ten loops.

24. (New) A shaped knit according to claim 22, wherein step b comprises widening a loop or narrowing loop at each deformation region.

25. (New) A shaped knit according to claim 22, wherein step b comprises splitting a loop or recombining a loop at each deformation region.

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26. (New) A shaped knit according to claim 22, wherein said step b comprises the sub-steps of.

b1. knitting widening loops in first and second wales thereby splitting the first and second wales into, respectively, a first pair of wales and a second pair of wales; and

b2. recombining the first pair of wales and recombining the second pair of wales, and the second portion of the knit includes a fully knitted wale between the first pair of wales and the second pair of wales.

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27. (New) A shaped knit according to claim 22, wherein said shaped knit is formed by employing twin needles and selecting a first number of active needles for each twin needle employed to form the first portion and a second number of active needles for each twin needle employed to form the second portion, and wherein the first number is different from the second number.

28. (New) A shaped knit according to claim 22, wherein said shaped knit is formed by employing a flat knitting machine with twin needles, wherein both needles of the twin

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needle are used for knitting the first portion and only one needle of the twin needle is used for knitting the second portion.

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29. (New) A shaped knit having a multiplicity of courses, the shaped knit produced by a knitting machine having a plurality of needles each of which can be deactivated and reactivated, said shaped knit produced by the steps of:

a. knitting a first portion with all the needles in the active state,

b. knitting a second portion with selected needles in the inactive state over at least one course, and

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c. knitting a third portion with all the needles in the active state,

and wherein knitting of the second portion of the knit includes deactivating the selected needles and subsequently reactivating the selected needles and wherein deactivating and reactivating of the selected needles in the second portion of the knit is effected at a plurality of points that are distributed over the second portion of the knit and are substantially equispaced with respect to the courses of the knit.

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30. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 29, wherein step (b) comprises knitting a second portion with selected needles in the inactive state over up to thirty courses.

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31. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 29, wherein step (b) comprises knitting a second portion by repeatedly deactivated and subsequently reactivated selected needles and wherein in each repetition the selected needles remain inactive over from one to thirty courses.

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32. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 31, wherein on successive repetitions, the number of selected needles that remain inactive varies.

33. (New) A shaped knit having a multiplicity of courses, the shaped knit comprising:

a first portion each course of which is fully spanned by wales,

a second portion having a first plurality of partial courses each of which is partially spanned by wales, and

a third portion each course of which is fully spanned by wales,

and wherein said plurality of partial courses of said second portion are distributed over the second portion of the knit and are substantially equispaced with respect to the courses of the knit.

34. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 33, wherein said first plurality of partial courses includes a plurality of contiguous courses each of which is partially spanned by wales.

35. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 33, wherein the second portion further has a second plurality of courses each of which is fully spanned by wales, wherein said second plurality of courses is interspersed with courses of said first plurality of partial courses.

36. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 35, wherein courses of said first plurality of partial courses are distributed over said second portion in groups of partial courses, wherein said groups of partial courses are alternated with groups of courses of said second plurality, and wherein each group of partial courses contains between one and thirty partial courses.

37. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 36, wherein extent to which wales span each partial course of each group of partial courses varies between successive groups of partial courses.